

than setting into a career in technical skills, Chuck continually sought leadership roles. His talents were recognized and rewarded first with an assignment as the head of the photo section in which he served and later through progressively more responsible roles, including Navy Career Counselor. During his long and distinguished Navy years, he served as an independent duty recruiter, Chief Master at Arms and Command Master Chief for two aircraft carriers, as well as Area and Zone Supervisor for recruiting in Florida and offshore in the Caribbean. Ultimately, he was appointed as Force Master Chief for Navy Recruiting Command, the senior enlisted recruiter in the US Navy and one of a handful of Force Master Chief Petty Officers.

Chuck's Navy service carried him from the United States to the Mediterranean, to South Africa and Vietnam, the South Pacific and the Far East, indeed, all around the world. His service was rewarded with, among other awards, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Force Master Chief Petty Officer and Navy Recruiting Command Badges.

Upon leaving the Navy in 1979, Chuck joined the staff of the Non Commissioned Officers Association. Fourteen months later, he accomplished his first major goal when the Administrator of Veterans Affairs granted NCOA recognition as an Accredited National Service Organization. Chuck recruited and trained the first NCOA national service officers and expanded the force to more than 300 accredited service officers nationally.

Soon thereafter, he was elected to the Board of Directors, where he served first as Secretary, and then as Chairman of the Board of Directors, Executive Vice President and President of the Association.

In 1984, he became the head of NCOA's Washington Office. During his tenure in this position, the association received its Federal Charter from Congress as a Veterans Organization. The association also accomplished many longtime legislative goals, including parity in special pays and survivor benefits for members of the armed forces, separation pay for enlisted members, Permanent enactment of the Montgomery G.I. Bill, improved VA housing benefits, and special VA benefits for reservists.

After becoming president of the association, Chuck set about modernizing NCOA and protecting its future. He upgraded equipment throughout NCOA offices here and abroad. He created new business practices for the association, modernized our partnership relations and created many new opportunities for the association and its members. Among the most notable are the products and service discounts awarded to NCOA members from Federal Express, MNBA Bankcard, AT&T, and many others.

Chuck was also instrumental in launching the NCOA National Defense Foundation, which has donated more than \$5 million in cash and services to the Department of Veterans Affairs since 1990.

Chuck Jackson has brought a new strength and credibility to the Non Commissioned Officers Association. His service is appreciated and will be missed. Please join me in wishing him a long and pleasurable retirement with his wife Sylvia, daughters, Debbie and Dianne, and their grand children.

TRIBUTE TO THE VFW POST 8832 LADIES AUXILIARY IN ROUND- HEAD, OHIO

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend to the attention of all those present before the House of Representatives and hope that other civic groups will follow in the footsteps of the VFW Post 8832 Ladies Auxiliary in Roundhead, Ohio as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary. A copy of my congratulatory letter to them is included for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 16, 1998.

Ms. SHIRLEY KRAMER,
*VFW Post 8832 Roundhead
Lakeview, OH.*

DEAR FRIENDS: I just learned that you will be celebrating your 50th anniversary this month. Please allow me to add my name to the list of well-wishers on this great occasion.

This is quite a milestone and one that you all can certainly be proud of achieving. This achievement validates all your hard work and dedication. The community owes a debt of gratitude for all that you have contributed to it every since your beginnings in 1948. I commend all your many worthwhile programs which benefit our hospitals, youth, veterans, and families. I look forward to 50 more exciting years from VFW Post 8832 Ladies Auxiliary, Roundhead.

Once again, congratulations on your anniversary and please keep up the great work.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL G. OXLEY, M.C.
Fourth Ohio District.

FANNIE MAE—TRILLION DOLLAR COMMITMENT

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, this week, Fannie Mae celebrates the fourth anniversary of its Trillion Dollar Commitment. I rise before you today to congratulate Fannie Mae CEO Jim Johnson and all of Fannie Mae's employees and local partners on the tremendous impact they have had on expanding home ownership opportunities in Minnesota and the nation.

Since March 1994, Fannie Mae has helped 5.6 million families through this targeted effort. Sixty-eight percent of Fannie Mae's business served families most in need—minorities, new immigrants, residents of central cities and underserved areas, first-time home buyers and people with special housing needs.

I have seen firsthand the impact of this commitment in Minneapolis and the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Fannie Mae's Minnesota Partnership Office piloted a highly successful low downpayment mortgage, known as the "Minnesota Flex," which is now offered in many communities nationwide. This mortgage product helps first-time homebuyers overcome one of the major obstacles to homeownership—saving for a downpayment. Last year, Fannie Mae also launched a rehab effort in

Northeast Minneapolis, which is helping to revitalize that community.

Nationally, Fannie Mae is transforming the housing finance system by removing barriers to homeownership and increasing the supply of affordable housing. In short, Fannie Mae's commitment is making a tangible impact on communities and improving the quality of life for homebuyers as well as renters.

I commend Fannie Mae and its local partners on a job well done and wish them further success in expanding home ownership and affordable housing opportunities in the coming years. I would also like to read the attached letter from the Mayor of Minneapolis in support of Fannie Mae's efforts.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,
Minneapolis, MN, March 4, 1998.

Mr. JAMES A. JOHNSON,
*Chairman, Fannie Mae,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR JIM: I want to extend my sincere congratulations to you and all of Fannie Mae on your upcoming fourth anniversary of the Trillion Dollar Commitment. It has been delightful to partner with Fannie Mae as you strive to reach your goal of serving the housing needs of underserved populations.

The City of Minneapolis has benefited from Fannie Mae's commitment in many ways. The work of the Partnership Office in finding creative solutions for our community's needs has been a critical component for our housing programs.

The new townhouse River Station development project would not have moved forward without Fannie Mae's American Communities Fund. Homeownership opportunities will be available for 360 families in Minneapolis' riverfront area.

The Section 8 homeownership demonstration project secured HUD approval once Fannie Mae committed \$4 million as an underwriting experiment to fund the mortgages.

Northeast Minneapolis received special funding under your innovative HomeStyle rehab initiative. The entire City is benefiting from your outreach efforts through HomeStyle.

By credit enhancing and purchasing our mortgage revenue bonds, first-time homebuyers achieved lower interest rates.

Your new Neighborhood Partners initiative in the Phillips, Powderhorn, and Central neighborhoods will be a huge boost to revitalizing these underserved areas.

I look forward to continuing our partnership as we explore ways to help even more Minneapolis residents achieve homeownership and affordable housing.

Sincerely,

SHARON SAYLES BELTON,
Mayor, City of Minneapolis.

IN HONOR OF HERIBERTO CRUZ

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Puerto Rico's greatest athletes and role models, Heriberto Cruz. Mr. Cruz is a shining example of someone who has developed his talents to the fullest and has given back to the community tenfold. We can all be inspired by his example.

Mr. Cruz, now living in Brooklyn, New York, was born in Puerto Rico. Starting at a young age, he excelled in track and field events and